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EXPERIMENT STATION FILE

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## U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

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**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND METHOD OF PROCEDURE  
IN ORGANIZING POULTRY CLUBS.**

Upon starting the poultry club work in a State where it is first being introduced, it is advisable to get definite knowledge of the counties in which the work is to be started. This is usually accomplished by having a conference with the State leaders in demonstration work, having them suggest a few counties wherein they think the work will be acceptable and definite cooperation will be extended by the county agents in charge.

During the first year it is advisable to undertake work only in a few counties where the local agents are appointed for practically the whole year, if possible counties that are located close to each other so that unnecessary travel may be avoided. After the counties have been definitely decided upon, a general survey should be made by a visit to each one, in company with the county canning club and corn club agent in charge, so as to become familiar with conditions as they exist, and to formulate definite plans for the organizing campaign. In each county a definite outline should be formed with the county agents as to the amount of time they will be able to devote to the work and the number of schools that will be undertaken for the year.

In this case likewise the rule should be adhered to that a few schools well organized the first year in each county will create a foundation upon which future work can be extended. At this point it must be emphasized that the teacher in charge of a school is one of the most important factors in any form of rural organization. Upon the teacher depends much of the future success or failure of the club work. Her cooperation and interest should be secured and maintained to produce the best results.

The general survey having been made of each of the counties wherein the work is to be started, plans should now be made to undertake the organizing campaign by visiting each of the schools which have been decided upon, in company with the county canning club or home demonstration agent. In many cases it has been found that where the county superintendent of schools is definitely interested in club work, and accompanies the poultry club agent on his tour through the county, more satisfactory results are obtained.

In visiting the schools give the children a talk on poultry, with the idea of interesting them in this subject, explaining to them the purpose of organizing poultry clubs among the children and the importance of the poultry industry. Explain how boys and girls carrying on this work can establish for themselves a profitable, pleasant

## SENIOR CLUBS.

In many cases it has been found advisable to organize poultry clubs among the patrons of the school, or among farmers and their wives, with the idea of creating an interest in poultry among the older people, and working hand in hand with the members of the boys' and girls' poultry clubs. In several localities community poultry clubs have been organized among the older people, with the idea of raising for their mutual and individual benefit one breed and variety of pure-bred poultry, and in that way creating a more general interest in the larger output of standard breeds of fowls and poultry products.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH POULTRY CLUBS.

*Egg-testing demonstration.*—Show the difference between fertile, infertile, and dead-germ eggs, as they appear when candling, and when broken into a saucer, at the end of seven days' incubation. Call special attention to the difference between the fertile and the infertile egg with reference to the production of the latter for table purposes. Use the egg placard to supplement this demonstration. Study of the parts of an egg by hard-boiling one for five minutes and separating it into four parts—shell, membrane, white, and yolk.

Show by demonstration the method of dusting a sitting hen so as to eliminate insect pests.

Have children make plans of and construct several practical brood coops out of box lumber. A model of a poultry house constructed by a member of the club will prove an interesting object for study. A trip to a near-by poultry plant may impress the members as to the management of such a plant and construction of the buildings used.

A feather exhibit may be arranged by having the members bring to school feathers of different breeds and varieties of fowls for comparison, classification, and study.

A judging contest held prior to the county fair, with a demonstration of selecting and fitting a fowl for exhibition, will prove a great help to those who will exhibit their birds.

Several dozens of eggs borrowed from the local grocer or contributed by the members would make an interesting study and demonstration of selecting proper eggs for hatching, market, and exhibition. The proper methods of packing eggs for shipment would be an additional feature of such a demonstration.

To show the children and their parents the way to caponize and how to kill and dry-pick a fowl would be of much value in many communities.

These and many other demonstrations may be conducted so as to stimulate interest and knowledge regarding some of the fundamentals of poultry work.